

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ROME

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ROME FOR FODAG

FOLR RPT USUN NEW YORK 0709 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DTD 01 MAR 78

QUOTE: UNCLAS USUN NEW YORK 00709

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EAID, WFP

SUBJECT: WFP PLEDGING CONFERENCE

1. AT THE EIGHTH PLEDGING CONFERENCE FOR THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM 55 COUNTRIES PLEDGED \$630,825,721 INCLUDING \$495,672,479 COMMODITIES, \$101,153,242 IN CASH AND \$34,000,000 IN SERVICES.

2. SYG WALDHEIM OPENED THE CONFERENCE WITH A LOW-KEY STATEMENT EMPHASIZING THE CONTRIBUTION OF WFP IN BOTH EMERGENCIES AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. HE PUT SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION WITH OTHER DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES.

3. WFP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VOGEL CITED THE 700 MILLION MALNOURISHED PEOPLE AND SAID WFP'S ASSISTANCE IS FILLING
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PAGE 02 STATE 055156 POSS DUPE

ONLY A TINY PORTION OF THEIR NEEDS. HE STRESSED THAT WFP FOOD AID WHICH IS TARGETED ON POOREST CITIZENS DOES NOT CREATE A MARKET DISINCENTIVE SINCE ITS FOOD AID GOES FOR PROJECTS FOR PEOPLE OTHERWISE OUTSIDE MARKETPLACE. HE CALLED THE 1979/1980 TARGET REALISTIC AND ATTAINABLE AND URGED DONORS TO INCREASE THE SHARE OF THEIR FOOD AID GOING THROUGH MULTILATERAL CHANNELS.

4. AMBASSADOR BOTERO (COLUMBIA) WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT. MARCUARD (SWITZERLAND), YANGO (PHILIPPINES) AND HALASZ (HUNGARY) WERE ELECTED VICE PRESIDENTS.

5. ONLY THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA MADE DETAILED STATEMENTS. CANADA'S MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE WHALEN NOTED POPULATION GROWTH IS OUTSTRIPPING INCREASES IN AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION AND CITED FOOD AS FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT OF ALL PEOPLE. HE CALLED ON BOTH DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO MAKE THE POLITICAL COMMITMENT NECESSARY TO INCREASE PRODUCTION AND IMPROVE DISTRIBUTION. HE CALLED FOR BETTER COORDINATION OF ALL FORMS OF AID INCLUDING FOOD AID. CANADA'S PLEDGE WILL BE \$190 MILLION (\$170 MILLION COMMODITIES, \$20 MILLION CASH).

6. FFP COORDINATOR KATHLEEN BITTERMANN REAFFIRMED U.S. SUPPORT FOR WFP; CITED NEED FOR NEW DONORS; URGED RECIPIENTS ALSO TO UNDERTAKE MORE CAREFUL PLANNING; SUGGESTED CFA SET UP SUBGROUP TO EXAMINE PROJECT COST AND MANPOWER ESTIMATES PRIOR TO CFA APPROVAL OF PROJECT; URGED MORE UNDP RESREP ATTENTION TO WFP AND MORE WFP FIELD REPRESENTATIVES; AND SUGGESTED EMERGENCY UNIT BE PUT IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT DIVISION. U.S. PLEDGE WAS FOR \$220 MILLION (\$182 MILLION COMMODITIES; \$34 MILLION TRANSPORT; \$4 MILLION CASH).
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PAGE 03 STATE 055156 POSS DUPE

7. WHILE THERE WERE A NUMBER OF INCREASES IN PLEDGES, FEW OF MAJOR DONORS REACHED OR EXCEEDED THE 31 PERCENT TARGET INCREASE. OPEC COUNTRIES PLEDGED VERY LITTLE, AND SAUDI ARABIA WAS NOT PRESENT

8. PLEDGES WERE AS FOLLOWS:

COUNTRY	AMOUNT (MILLION)
UNITED STATES	\$220
CANADA	\$190
AUSTRALIA	10.7
BELGIUM	2.8
DENMARK	31.5
FINLAND	2.9
FRG	35.4
IRELAND	2.5
NETHERLANDS	46.3
SWEDEN	25.8
UK	15.7
NORWAY	34.1

SWITZERLAND 2.3
YOUNG UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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